



CHALLENGES ENCOUNTERED BY LEARNERS OF ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE

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ABSTRACT

With the objective of keeping pace with the globalization, it becomes quintessential to observe and realize the need and importance of ever increasing demand of English. In recent years English has achieved a lot of recognition as English is considered as the common official language worldwide which has created a plethora of scope for ample number of jobs across the world.

INTRODUCTION

English is not just an official language but a language of immense scope for jobs. But still there are many people who aren't fluent with this language to keep abreast with the growing demand for English we need to go to the roots as to what are the challenges encountered by learners of English as a second language. The aim of this paper is keenly observe and rectify the problems of learners.

Challenges are:

1. Advanced technology
2. Environment
3. Interest
4. Teaching pedagogy
5. Slangs
6. Mixing the grammar of the native language to that of English.

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7. Vocabulary

With the passage of time and enhanced need to fulfill the requirements of globalization, English language has strengthened its roots in almost all the different business, academic and service activities. It has become essential among masses to obtain the flair of this international language to find a flow in their commercial and day to day activities. Children who have an association with this language right from the beginning find it much simpler than those people who have a strong association with the vernacular language and in the later stage when they grow up learning may become very challenging as it does not simply involve words, but also the flair in the usage of words. In the quest for taking up English as a second language one may be faced with endless difficulties. One of the difficulties may be difference between your language and English language. Let us take an example of Chinese language in which alphabets are missing. It majorly has symbols, now studying English Language especially in the grown up stage comes up as an extreme complex task. Another difficulty arises in terms of practice. Any new thing or language needs to be practiced for a person to get the flair. In cases where everybody speaks his own language at home or society, it becomes a challenge again if you are not able to practice what you are learning. It becomes difficult when you don't receive help from others or there is nobody to check you.

At other times difficulty arises when there is a large work load in schools wherein there is a mixed kind of strength of students who are fast learners and who are already exposed to English language and another type of strength is of students who are slow learners plus newly exposed to this language.

In rare cases even attitude can be a trouble being faced by the English learners. For example in cases of a strong cultural background learners may find English as an evil necessity and they may not want to put dedication into something for which they already possess hard feelings.

Fear of embarrassment also comes up as a difficulty among most of the learners of English Language. People who have never been exposed to this language and now because of globalization requirement have to take it up may be the ones who face the fear of embarrassment to a great extent as it happens in most of the dragon nations that is their negotiation with Americans and Europeans they get submissive or keep getting cautious against blunders and common mistakes. Other people in the same category may also face problem in the form of

- Comprehended grammar structure in the language
- Pronunciation
- Usage of words



- Reply in own language first and later translate in English.
- Vocabulary

The list of difficulties is still long as again in most of the cases and especially in countries like India we see that this language is taught and learnt only as a subject to pass the exam, however to understand it as a skill becomes unrealistic in such a scenario. When we talk about learning it as a skill it includes all the various critical skill sets like

- Reading
- Writing
- Thinking
- Speaking
- Listening

When the purpose is only confining the language within textbook or classroom then the integration factor gets lost somewhere which is required in facilitating our day to day activities with the help of a language to communicate in real world with real people.

In many cases it is considered as a foreign language and where it is not required people do not invest their time and resources into it and because of it we are not able to build up a stable language learning environment.

Another obstacle and harassment may come in the form of usage of English language as it is a very neat and clean language. The letters in the alphabet are only twenty six but a single mistake can lead you to an unpardonable situation especially when the words have multiple meanings.

A FEW EXERCISES THAT MAY HELP.

Now that we are through with the stumbling blocks in the way of learning English as a second language, let us also peep into various big and small exercises that may help open avenues for the easy learning of this language.

Mingling up with crowds where English is commonly spoken.

One may frequently visit places where English is largely spoken as this helps generate interest in a person to establish close connectivity with masses of diverse expressions, flow of speaking, accent and other things in the common language.



Come out of the misconception of fluency.

It has been generally observed that while learning English language people start emphasizing much on fluency approach. This is dangerous because the focus is lost and both the content and fluency get damaged. True learners always go step wise and not in a haste to know everything overnight.

First understand your native language better.

It is always significant to know your own language well. If you are not well versed with your first language you may end up in taking a lot of time in translation of the content or may be the meaning of the translated content differs.

Depend upon vocabulary usage rather than mugging up.

This is a healthy way to learn English as a second language as the usage of words may help a person learn in a situation mode . Simply mugging up may be a trouble as it rarely helps people in developing themselves in what they are learning.

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